

## BOOK REVIEW

**SAS® Macro Language: Reference, First Edition Published** by the SAS Institute, Inc., Cary, NC, USA SAS Publication # 55501 ISBN 1-55544-953-0

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If you want a complete understanding of the way the SAS macro facility works, this is the book for you. It is a detailed manual that explains all about how the SAS system compiles text. It contains plenty of clear explanations and examples as well as a Macro Language Dictionary. It is complete enough to satisfy the intermediate as well as the advanced SAS programmer, while detailed enough in its explanations to educate even the most novice user.

I would recommend this book to anyone interested in expanding their working knowledge of SAS and increasing their productivity with portable, efficient macro code. Reading this book will certainly pay off by saving you time and aid in writing more efficient code. It is certainly worth the investment of time and money. It is an outstanding tutorial as well as an impressive reference as a companion to the SAS® Guide to Macro Processing,

When asked to review this book, I took special interest as I would really like to learn more about the use of macros but have been unable to attend a training class.

Chapter 13 is especially useful because it is the Macro Language Dictionary - a must for anyone attempting their first, or even the most advanced macro. The margin notes make this section even easier to use. If you only read this one section, you will still gain an extensive background of SAS macro language. I'll bet you will run to your computer eager to try some of these new techniques or modify existing code with them.